

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9-11 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 being independent. Claims 4, 5 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-11 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-11* were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,709,088 (Hayakawa et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hayakawa et al. relates to an ink jet recording apparatus that includes ink-receiver holes for receiving ink discharged from the recording head beyond the edges of a recording medium. The apparatus includes discharge liquid counting means 39 for determining the amount of ink discharged during margin-free printing to each ink-receiver hole. However, as described at col. 9, lines 26-35 and col. 10, lines 43-55 and referring to the table of Fig. 6, it is not individual ink ejections or dischargings that are counted in Hayakawa et al., but rather predetermined values (constant) corresponding to waste ink volume in marginless printing are accumulated. These predetermined values or constants are exemplified in Fig. 6, wherein the discharge liquid count is 3 for “Margin-Free Printing 1 (Single pass, one hole)” and 300 for “Margin-Free Printing 2 (1 line).” At col. 15, lines 19-27, Hayakawa et al. further describes that the predetermined values or constants can be

*Although only Claims 1-3 and 7 are listed in the first sentence of the rejection, Claims 1-11 are individually discussed in the detailed rejection.

specified corresponding to sizes of the printing medium to be printed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that in Hayakawa et al. it is these predetermined values that are accumulated in margin-free printing. With such a structure, however, the ink volume ejected to an overrunning area cannot be measured precisely. Rather, the accumulated ink volume ejected to the overrunning area is only roughly estimated.

Accordingly, Hayakawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least obtaining a value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with marginless printing by counting a number of ink ejections to an overrunning area or by counting a number of ink droplets to be ejected onto the overrunning area, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9.

Therefore, Hayakawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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